

Creating a Rock Park at Meldon Quarry, Devon

- a new facility for geological education, tourism and leisure

Boulders from Meldon Quarry have been placed in a newly created Rock Park area to show the great variety of the rocks and geology found in the quarry. As a working quarry, there is no safe access for the general public or for geological studies, and the Rock Park has been created to allow close examination of the rocks in a safe and pleasant location. David Roche GeoConsulting arranged, directed and project managed the development works which involved levelling and surfacing the Rock Park area, moving and placing boulders, new picnic tables and fences, direction signs and an information board.

Meldon Rock Park Setting

Meldon Rock Park is adjacent to the Dartmoor Railway and Granite Cycleway which are already popular tourist facilities within Dartmoor National Park, and the new Rock Park enhances these and other local nature and heritage features. It occupies an area of land previously disused on the edge of the quarry.

The boulders are a representative selection of the main rock types of Meldon, and have been placed in an order reflecting a north-south section across the quarry. The rock types include chert, hornfels, slate-with-lenticles, chialstolite slate, crystalline tuff and dolerite dykes. The geology of Meldon Quarry is complex with rocks of great age (about 350 million years old) with large folds and faults, which have been altered by thermal metamorphism due to intrusion of the nearby Dartmoor Granite.



Boulders from the adjacent Meldon Quarry have been placed in the Rock Park to show the great variety of the rocks and geology in the quarry.



A disused area of 'waste' land has been transformed into the Rock Park offering an educational experience with visitor picnic facility in a popular Dartmoor location.



Developing New Rock Parks

Rock Parks can enhance popular tourist locations and provide information on the geodiversity of the surrounding area for visitors to enjoy and take away. Potential sites include car parks and visitor centres.

David Roche GeoConsulting can provide project management, arrangement and direction of works for development of rock park facilities including interpretative geological information boards, with contacts in the minerals industry to source good local geological materials.

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